

NEWS RELEASE

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TRIPLER ARMY MEDICAL CENTER, HONOLULU, HI JOINS FORCES WITH HENRY FORD HEALTH SYSTEM, DETROIT, MI TO DEVELOP AUTOMATED CLINICAL PRACTICE GUIDELINES

FEBRUARY 15, 2000 – HONOLULU, HI *Imagine a patient encounter where the subjective and objective information as well as the diagnostic assessment and treatment plan reflects the most up-to-date approach to disease management.*

A collaborative project between the public and private sector is underway to make this outcome a reality. Tripler Army Medical Center (TAMC) and Henry Ford Health System (HFHS) formally announced today, that they have joined forces to collaborate in the development of Automated Clinical Practice Guidelines (ACPG).

Automated, rules-based guidelines assist both practitioners and patients in choosing appropriate healthcare strategies for the prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and management of selected conditions (e.g., diabetes mellitus, low back pain, smoking cessation, etc.). Automated clinical practice guidelines provide decision support, utilizing a number of methods including intuitive links (branching logic) that guide the provider through a specified clinical practice guideline. Electronically displayed clinical alerts and reminders ensure that the provider is providing timely and consistent care to all patients. Clinical practice guidelines provide the ability to track, report, and analyze variances from

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guideline rules. This type of analysis will enhance the quality of care rendered to a patient and enables the measurement of provider compliance and patient outcomes.

The TAMC/HFHS Automated Clinical Practice Guideline collaborative initiative will focus on the following program goals:

- Design and implement automated rule-based care management. Using automated tools and systems, the project will develop programs that encompass rules-based care management techniques and procedures. This will prompt providers to make the right decision at the right time.
- Conduct a rigorous research design to evaluate the impact of automated rules-based management. Research data will be collected at host sites. Research data collected at the individual patient level must support aggregated analysis including a comparison between HFHS and TAMC experiences.
- Exploit technology transfer mechanisms to disseminate selected components of rules-based care management tools and procedures to additional private and public sector sites.
- Over the life of the project, automate and test the efficacy of rules-based care management techniques and procedures. The first guideline is diabetes care management. Additional guidelines will be selected in the areas of chronic disease management, acute illness, disease prevention, and life style behaviors.

The collaborative effort will be executed by the Department of Nursing and the Pacific e-Health Innovation Center (Pacific-EIC) at TAMC, and the Information Technology Department and Office of Policy Initiatives at HFHS. The project team expects to have preliminary outcome data available in less than one year.

For more information about the TAMC/HFHS ACPG effort, visit the Pacific-EIC website at <http://prpo.tamc.amedd.army.mil>, or call 808-433-3600, or 313-874-6397 at HFHS.